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CIA Is Necessary to USA

The CIA or Central Intelligence Agency has been under fire almost since it came into existence as an outgrowth of World War II's OSS. By its nature it is bound to draw the fire of those who dislike the notion of undercover agents and activities except on tv. Furthermore, the CIA's failures are certain to receive more publicity than its successes, since whenever it succeeds, it does so by drawing no attention to itself. And to add to the list of its handicaps, the country has been rightly angered recently by the stockpiling of information about American citizens by army intelligence.

Yet the fact is that this country is a world power of the first magnitude, and it cannot possibly conduct its business without some secret serv-

ice organization. There is constant pressure on the CIA to reveal its secrets; when it does, it contradicts its own nature and purpose. As a result, there is constant harassment of the agency by those who naively assume that the United States can afford to dispense with it altogether.

The director of the CIA, Richard Helms, has just asked the nation "to take it on faith that we too are honorable men devoted to its service." That is a fair request, and the least the agency and its officers can expect. Unless the country is prepared to dissolve the CIA, it must expect it to be secret and it must, as Helms asks, take it on faith that it is made up of honorable men.

The realities of world politics are not always pleasant, but they will not alter by being ignored.